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Quote, Unquote

News Summary: Page A7

"Universities are now coming to us and asking, 'Can you give us a list of those students?'"

The chancellor of a community college, on the impact of a program that prepares minority students for four-year colleges: A35

"The benefit of participating in online education is this 'anytime, anywhere' concept that is very appealing. Well, technical support has to be available anytime, anywhere as well."

The director of client support for Convene: A49

"Asking Knight to step down would have been an attack on Indiana culture. He's like a sequoia, huge above ground and even bigger below."

A professor at Indiana U., on why Bob Knight kept his job as basketball coach: A58

"We don't think about what we have. . . . It's a typical communal apartment. As it always was, it still is. It is part of the Russian soul."

A student at St. Petersburg State Technical University, on his dilapidated dormitory: A60

"How ironic that an administration that entered office committed to increasing investment in human capital will also bequeath a costly, unproductive, and bureaucratic legacy as colleges comply with piles of more paperwork."

A senior vice president at the American Council on Education: A68

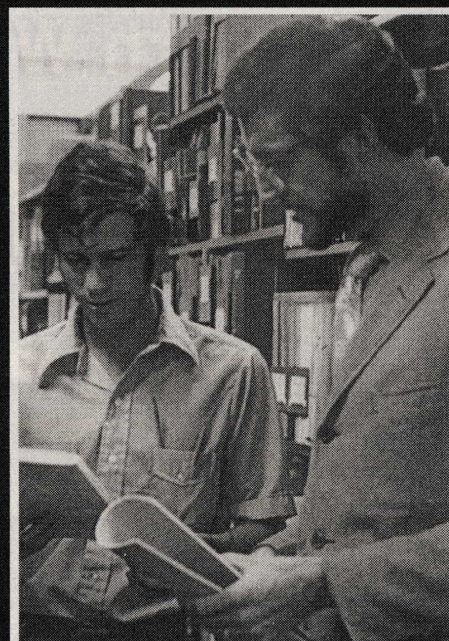
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Harold Overton
was a professor
at Charleston
Southern U.
for 27 years.
He earned
tenure.

He regularly
taught four or
more classes a

semester. When he died last year, his salary was less than \$40,000. In an era of academic superstars, a look at the career of one unsung professor, and what his life says about higher education today: A18



Harold Overton, right, advises a student in 1972

Universities Venture Into Venture Capitalism: A44

Accepted Applicants Force Colleges to Wait-and Negotiate: A55

Opinion: Why Is Democracy More Popular Than Democracies? B4

THE FACULTY: RESEARCH & PUBLISHING

MACHO MEN: From its title, *The Adonis Complex* might be mistaken for a new thriller by **Robert Ludlum** or **Michael Crichton**. It's more like a self-help book with Ivy League credentials.

Harrison G. Pope Jr., one of its three authors, was among the first to sound a public alarm in the 1980's about women's eating disorders. Now the Harvard University psychiatrist is seeking a popular audience for similar concerns about men's unhealthy preoccupation with their appearance.

The Adonis Complex, subtitled *The Secret Crisis of Male Body Obsession* (**The Free Press**), tallies the high price that men pay for pursuing "an ever-more muscular, ever-more-fit, and often-unattainable male body ideal." Along with the two other authors—**Katharine A. Phillips**, a psychiatrist at Brown University, and **Roberto Olivardia**, a clinical psychologist at Harvard's medical school—Dr. Pope argues that the book's title aptly describes a condition shared by millions of boys and men who develop eating disorders, abuse steroids, work out compulsively, or otherwise obsess over their physical appearance.

The scholars offer two theories for what they see as a rise in Adonis-envy since the 1960's. Anabolic steroids have extended the limits of what bodybuilding can achieve, says Dr. Pope in an interview. And, for some men, in the wake of gains in women's equality, "the body is the last refuge of masculinity."

Many of the authors' observations are grounded in peer-reviewed scholarship. Their computerized tests have shown, for example, that gym rats typically exaggerate the musculature and underestimate the body fat of the average male physique, and wildly misperceive what women find attractive. The authors have also published extensive research on the prevalence of male "body dysmorphic disorder"—an excessive preoccupation with perceived flaws in appearance.

But to make the case for a national epidemic and describe its origins, the authors had to engage in some educated speculation. "It's hard to produce exact estimates of how many

Hot Type

men are seriously impaired," says Dr. Pope, "because the ones who are seriously impaired are precisely the ones who are reluctant to talk about it."

So they devised creative ways to marshal their evidence. To measure the prevalence of pathologies like male bulimia and steroid abuse, they extrapolated from small study samples. Their theory that society values ever-stronger, ever-leaner physiques sent them to the Library of Congress to compare *Playgirl* magazine models over time. And Dr. Pope's 14-year-old, Barbie-owning daughter gets credit for suggesting that his team look at boys' "action figures" as an indicator of how the ideal male physique has evolved. (G.I. Joe Extreme's life-size counterpart would have 27-inch biceps and a 55-inch chest—a specimen rarely found in nature.)

Unfortunately, say the authors, the taboo against overt male vanity inhibits men from seeking help for their disorders. That's one reason their book includes several do-it-yourself diagnostic quizzes. They hope that publicity for the book will smash the taboo.

That hope may be well-founded. The Free Press released the book on May 17, a month early, after *Time* magazine wrote about it in a lurid cover package on testosterone and men's bodies. Dr. Pope wouldn't mind a little time on talk shows, too, where he could offer viewers valuable caveats. The most important, he says, is that concern with appearance is pathological only if it causes distress. After all, he notes, he spends 12 hours a week in the gym, and feels perfectly normal.

■
STEAL THIS BOOK: **Jeff Schmidt** did. "This book is stolen," the *Physics Today* magazine

editor declares at the beginning of his new work, which he wrote on the job when his bosses weren't looking. "Written on stolen time, that is."

Mr. Schmidt acknowledges that at first glance, his book could also be seen as an exercise in bait-and-switch. With the title, *Disciplined Minds*, in bold letters on the spine, and the category "Careers" stamped on the back cover, the book will no doubt attract the attention of hard-working professionals eager for an edge over their competitors—we mean, colleagues.

But Mr. Schmidt's subtitle—*A Critical Look at Salaried Professionals and the Soul-Battering System That Shapes Their Lives*—tells a different tale.

He envisions the readers of *Disciplined Minds* (**Rowman & Littlefield**) not as ladder-climbing careerists, but as "dissatisfied professionals and disillusioned graduate students—the majority."

Maybe you can identify. Mr. Schmidt believes that most people enter the work world or graduate school with the belief that their labor will be of social value. More often, they find that it's of only economic value—and not primarily to them. The hierarchies of professionalism leave them alone on their ladders, afraid to make a change.

If that sounds bleak, he has the solution. After examining the worlds of work and education with an eye for the political, he concludes with "Now or Never," a 33-point manifesto for changing the world, or at least your office.

It's not rocket science, says Mr. Schmidt, who earned his Ph.D. from the University of California at Irvine. Form a union, fight elitism, and "undermine management's information advantage."

Sound like hard work? You're already doing it. For laborers in academe, Mr. Schmidt recommends reading "the weekly intelligence report for university bosses," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

—D. W. MILLER AND JEFF SHARLET

Continued From Page A24

among gravity researchers, more than a half-dozen laboratory experiments are currently looking for hints of brawnier gravity, which should manifest itself at distances of less than a millimeter. And that tally includes only the groups willing to go public, says Riley Newman, of the University of California at Irvine, who made the inventory. He says there are "undoubtedly" other submillimeter-force experiments now underway or planned.

At the recent meeting in Long Beach, physicists from the University of Washington described their results using an extremely sensitive balance. In the device, several disks are stacked atop each other, separated by fractions of a millimeter. By detecting the tugs between pairs of disks, the group has made the most sensitive known measurements of gravity at short distances, reported Mr. Adelberger, one of the researchers.

In fact, the physics world is buzzing with rumors that the Washington team found

some deviations from expected gravity. Mr. Adelberger refused to comment on any unusual findings, except to say that he and his colleagues are carefully checking their results. They are also modifying their setup to reduce any vibrations that wiggle the instrument, enabling them to place the disks even closer together.

At the other end of the spectrum from Washington's tabletop experiments, researchers at Fermilab, in Batavia, Ill., near Chicago, are probing for signs of extra dimensions by examining the most energetic man-made collisions on earth. They are slamming protons and antiprotons together at velocities near the speed of light.

Such experiments might be able to determine if large extra dimensions do exist,

says Brown's Mr. Landsberg, who conducts research at the lab. In some cases, key evidence could emerge in the form of missing energy. While most of the debris from the collisions would register in the collider's detectors, the crash would also produce gravitational particles that could escape into the extra dimensions. From the perspective of our universe, it would seem that some energy had vanished.

Mr. Landsberg and his colleagues have found no clear evidence of such disappearances, but next year they plan to run an experiment that will generate 200 times the amount of data collected in previous studies. If nothing appears in those tests, an even more powerful accelerator at Geneva's European Laboratory for Particle

Physics, known as CERN, might produce some answers when it goes on line in 2005.

In the past, experimental physicists had felt shut off from the theorists who explore string theory, because there was no way to test the idea. But the possibilities of large extra dimensions have zapped newfound energy into the collider community. "In effect, we have found the connection from string theory to the ground on which we are all standing, to the things we can observe and test," says Mr. Landsberg.

Mr. Arkani-Hamed seems delighted with the interest that the new theory has generated. "What's fun is that it's all testable. So I will know in a 10-year time scale if this is all fantasy or reality. That's gratifying, because I'd like to know if I'm right or wrong before I'm dead."

Even if the theory of large extra dimensions eventually collapses, physicists will still view it as a positive contribution, says Mr. Adelberger. "I would be surprised if it hasn't changed people's way of thinking about things."

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